

Applic. No. 10/776,361
Amdt. dated August 22, 2005
Reply to Office action of May 25, 2005

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions,
and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for conveying
sheets to a sheet processing machine, comprising:

a feed table;

at least one suction belt disposed to be guided over said feed
table and to be subjected to suction air from an underside
thereof;

said at least one suction belt having at least two mutually
spaced-apart rows of suction openings formed therein; and

said feed table having ventilation openings formed therein in
a region between said rows of suction openings formed in said
at least one suction belt.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, which
comprises mutually parallel suction boxes communicating with
said rows of suction openings for supplying suction air to
said rows of suction openings, and a common vacuum source
communicating with said suction boxes.

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Claim 3 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 2, ~~which comprises~~ wherein said feed table includes a covering plate covering said suction boxes on top, said covering plate ~~defining said feed table and~~ forming a guide for said at least one suction belt.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said covering plate is formed with mutually parallel rows of suction openings and with said ventilation openings.